

ACCESS AMERICA

Boy Scouts of America

A Year of Celebration-A Century of Making a Difference



Boy scouts surveying the landscape from a higher vantage, Santa Rosa Plateau, California.

The Boy Scouts of America's mission is simple—it's to build the character and integrity of youth and prepare them to become responsible adults. Adults who are leaders, who have chosen to live in accordance with the Scout Oath and Law. Every youth and adult Scout lives by this set of principles laid down more than a century ago in the UK. Those principles challenge every Scout to be dutiful to God, country, others, and self.

Now, nearly 100 years later, the Boy Scouts of America is preparing to celebrate its 100th Anniversary. For 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America has created a strong foundation of leadership, service, and community for millions of America's youth. BSA celebrates this legacy as it reaffirms its commitment to America and to the world to inspire and prepare future generations of leaders.

To assist with program development and membership growth opportunities around the world, the Boy Scouts of America maintains an International Department. This department works closely with the World Scout Committee, the World Scout Bureau, the bureau's six regional offices, and the World Scout Foundation to help ensure quality Scouting.

Adult volunteers from across the USA pay their own expenses to assist wherever they are

Also in this issue

Scouts in Tunisia.....	2
From the IRC	2
Alumni Spotlight.....	3
Exchange Programs.....	4
Summer Concerts.....	4
Calendar	4

needed. A great example of how this brotherhood of world Scouting transcends borders and cultures to assist young people from all walks of life to become better citizens. Currently there are 160 National Scout Associations representing some 220 countries and territories that belong to the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

As they prepare for their 2010 Anniversary, former Scouts, supportive family members, dedicated volunteers and professionals, and community leaders, can see all of the activities planned around the 100th Anniversary by visiting www.scouting.org/100years

This article was written by Renee Fairrer of the Boy Scouts of America

From the Ambassador

Each day, thousands of people around the world donate their time and talents to improve their communities. Americans are no exception—across the United States there are millions of ordinary citizens doing extraordinary things. One organization that has promoted civic-mindedness and community activism for almost 100 years is the Boy Scouts. Through various activities and projects, Scouts learn the importance of being engaged in service. Volunteering, however, does not require a formal organization. Often, it just means looking for good opportunities. Is there a sports team you could coach? Or what about mentoring a young student? Get involved! We can all help others in small but meaningful ways and I encourage you to lend a helping hand this summer.

—Robert F. Godec

From the IRC

Online resources

A social networking site for youth engaged in good causes.

<http://www.youthnoise.com>

Best practices, books, materials, and organizations that engage youth

<http://www.youthactivism.com>

Boy Scouts of America website

<http://www.scouting.org/>

Scouts in Tunisia

<http://www.scouts.org.tn/>

Volunteering in America: volunteering trends and statistics

<http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov/>

— *Khaled Ben Bhouzid*
& the IRC team



Become an IRC Member

The best way to take advantage of the Embassy's collection of feature films, books, journals, and other media is to become a member of the IRC. Bring one photo and one dinar to the IRC to get your membership card.

Scouts in Tunisia: Helping Build a Better World



Tunisian Brounies handcrafting

One of the most dynamic youth associations in Tunisia is undoubtedly the Tunisian Scout movement, offering outdoor activities to children and youth throughout the country.

Celebrating this year its 75th anniversary, the Tunisian Scouts Organization includes over fifty thousand members of both genders active in nearly 400 groups spread throughout the country.

Scouting in Tunisia started in 1934. When Tunisia won independence in 1956, scouts constituted the bulk of police and National Guard troops due to their hierarchical structure, sense of discipline, and commitment to serve the community.

Today, Tunisian scouts are present in most cities and villages, teaching children and youth basic scouting principles including love of the environment, esprit de corps and team work, in addition to self-reliance and willingness to serve others.

Tunisian scouts are also heavily engaged in community service through partnership agreements signed with major governmental and non-

governmental institutions and organizations. Success stories include the training of thousands of peer educators in the field of reproductive healthcare, ecological parks preservation and literacy programs in favor of the underprivileged.

Citizenship values and principles represent the programming core. Young scouts of all ages learn basic democracy and civic rules through mock elections, children's parliaments, and forums on hot topics.



At the 2007 World Scout Jamboree in England

In 2005, Tunisia hosted the 37th World Scout Conference with more than 1200 participants representing over 160 countries. Every year nearly 600 scouts take part in international exchange programs, including this year, two young leaders volunteering in summer camps in the United States of America within the framework of an exchange agreement with the BSA.

For more information, please visit <http://www.scouts.org.tn/>

This article was written by Public Affairs Staff

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Ahmed Ben Hariz

Near East & South Asia Ugrad program (NESA)

Home in Tunisia: Sfax

Home in the U.S.: Clarion, Pennsylvania

Fondest memory of the U.S.: Its hard to choose one memory because I really enjoyed every moment I spent in Clarion and in other places around the U.S. But one of my best memories was the day we spent in Hollywood. I never imagined that one day I would be walking on Hollywood Boulevard, and seeing all of those things that I used to watch on TV. I enjoyed visiting Universal Studios and Long Beach. That trip to California was really amazing!

My experience: I went to Clarion University of Pennsylvania. I was among 13 other students who came from different Arab countries as part of the NESA program. Clarion University had a beautiful campus, with wonderful green landscapes. I was part of the Clarion international student association and the international soccer team. I lived in Nair Hall with the other international students. We had outstanding people working in the international office who were there for us all the time.

Lessons learned: I will cherish my NESA experience for the rest of my life. This program made me appreciate the true value of friendship and allowed me to meet people from all over the world. Now I am proud to say that I have a home and a friend in different countries. Moreover, this experience has certainly gave me a lot of academic skills that I didn't have before and it also given me the chance to learn about American culture and customs. I learned that being Tunisian is something that made me special around campus. I tried to represent my country and my culture in the best possible way. A lot of my American friends fell in love with Tunisia even without being there and most of them want to fly here someday.



Photo courtesy of Ahmed Ben Hariz.

Advice for others: The NESA program is an amazing experience that could not be described in simple words. It is about meeting people and sharing things you learned in your home country. It is about changing stereotypes and experiencing a new life. I would advise anyone to apply for this program because it changed me positive ways. I advise them to enjoy every moment they spend in the U.S. and learn as much as they can.

What I miss most about the U.S.: I miss the friends that I made there. I miss being an international student. I miss my daily life in Clarion and all of the activities that I used to do while I was there. Being a Clarion student gave me the feeling that I was part of a big family. I was simply proud of wearing my university colors and experiencing the life of a U.S. university student. I also have to admit that I also miss my roommate Ryan who was sometimes annoying but still he is one of my best friends too.



Photo courtesy of Ahmed Ben Hariz.

Exchange Programs

Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program (FLTA)

An opportunity for young English language educators to refine their teaching skills, increase their English language proficiency and expand their knowledge of American culture and customs, while teaching Arabic at U.S. colleges and universities.

Length of program: One academic year

Deadline: June 30, 2009

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

Nine-month academic and professional study and related internship for mid-career professionals in a variety of fields.

Deadline: July 15, 2009

For further information about these programs please call us at 71-107-438/71-107-259 or send an email to Tunis_Exchange@state.gov



Summer Concerts

Gospel at El Jem

Mister Deep Singing Ray Charles

August 8th, 2009

Jazz at Carthage

The Stafford-Oatts Quintet

August 10th, 2009



Calendar

Free English Conversation

Every Tuesday & Thursday

American Corner at AMIDEAST
4:00 PM

Weekly discussions on topics from films and music to religion. Topics posted weekly in the American Corner and at AMIDEAST.

Open Access

Every Monday-Friday

American Corner at AMIDEAST
10:00 AM-6:00 PM

Peruse books and magazines in English on topics from history to pop culture and more.

Weekly Movies

Fridays 4:00 PM at American Corner

American Corner at AMIDEAST
22, Rue Al Amine al Abassi, Cite des Jardins, 1002 Tunis-Belvedere, tel. 71-790-563 ext. 106

Study in the USA Consultations

Tuesday to Friday

AMIDEAST Advising Resource Library
8:30 AM-3:30 PM

Browse info on U.S. universities. Consult resources on applications and scholarships.

Study in the USA General Advising*

Every Wednesday & Friday

AMIDEAST Advising Resource Library
12:30 PM

Statement of Purpose Workshops*

By appointment

Graduate Statement of Purpose workshop
Undergraduate Statement of Purpose workshop

**Please contact AMIDEAST to make an appointment **



The American Center

U.S. Embassy Tunis
Public Affairs Section

Les Berges du Lac
1053 TUNIS, Tunisia

Tel. +216 71-107-000

Fax +216 71-963-263

E-mail:

tuniswebsitecontact@state.gov

Web site:

<http://tunis.usembassy.gov>